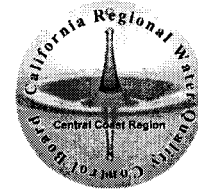


Listed Waterbody: San Lorenzo River

Listed Condition: Sediment

Progress Report: Implementation Tracking



This progress report describes the status of this project at the end of fiscal year 2005-2005 (FY 04-05). On May 16, 2003, the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. R3-2002-0063 (Attachment A available on-line) the San Lorenzo River (including Carbonera Creek, Lompico Creek, and Shingle Mill Creek) Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basin Plan Amendment. The TMDL became effective on December 18, 2003 when it was approved as a Basin Plan amendment by the Office of Administrative Law.

During FY 04-05, Regional Board staff conducted telephone interviews during August and September 2004 and held a meeting with numerous TMDL implementing parties on October 7, 2004. The purpose of the interviews and meeting were to: 1) review the TMDL strategy; 2) determine time schedules for implementation actions; 3) gather information on implementation progress; and 4) discuss monitoring to determine TMDL progress and achievement.

Implementation Tracking

Implementing parties agreed that Regional Board staff should draft a 3-year reporting form along with time-schedules for each of the implementation actions for TAC review. Staff worked with each of the implementing parties to further define milestones and time schedules for each action. Staff developed a reporting format that will be used for evaluating progress towards TMDL attainment. Implementing parties will use this format to report to us every three years. The San Lorenzo River Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the reporting form to solidify the process and structure for the year-three evaluation. The 3-year reporting form and time-schedules are included in Attachments A and B.

The Trackable Implementation Actions Table illustrates implementation actions that will address the problem of sediment control in the San Lorenzo River watershed. Implementation tracking determines whether or not the identified management actions are undertaken. Regional Board staff believe that implementing the actions, and tracking their progress should be the primary focus to protect water quality and the associated beneficial uses.

The TMDL requires that Regional Board staff review implementation progress annually. In anticipation of the end of year-one deadline, Regional Board staff evaluated the status of each of the actions in the TMDL implementation plan (e.g. road related erosion assessments, implementation of road management practices and manure management grants) during phone surveys and interviews in August and September. Then, in October 2004, Regional Board staff presented the status information on these actions to agencies identified as implementing parties. The results of the survey and the meeting indicate that implementing parties have made significant progress on implementing the actions and have made a commitment to continue to

pursue implementation. Attachment C illustrates the status of each of the implementation actions at this early phase of implementation.

Numeric Target Monitoring

The TMDL identifies the need to evaluate the numeric target data in the context of other monitoring efforts, as part of a Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CMP). Staff developed a CMP that includes the following components: streambed and habitat monitoring (numeric targets); fisheries monitoring, turbidity monitoring; and project effectiveness monitoring. The CMP calls for the numeric targets to be monitored triennially to determine if and when beneficial uses (COLD, FRESH, MIGR, SPWN) are being protected. Every three years, Regional Board staff will review the results of these efforts to assess protection of aquatic life.

Currently no funding is available for monitoring; however, staff is pursuing and will continue to pursue funding and resources (e.g. through the University of California, Santa Cruz, Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and/or collaborative efforts) to monitor the numeric targets to satisfy TMDL requirements.

San Lorenzo River Technical Advisory Committee

In January 2005, staff circulated all the materials developed as part of this outreach to the San Lorenzo River Technical Advisory Committee, a stakeholder group identified in the TMDL as collaborators in evaluating TMDL implementation and monitoring. Staff incorporated comments received and held a TAC meeting on February 1, 2005 to discuss final changes. Members discussed language to clarify the 3-year reporting mechanisms and timing, coordination between Implementing Parties, and implementation action completion dates. Members also discussed the benefits of monitoring suspended sediment and other habitat related parameters related to salmonid spawning and rearing habitat, and modifications to potential sampling locations to show TMDL progress. Regional Board staff modified the three documents to reflect these comments and sent the final version out on February 24, 2005.

Conclusions

Evaluation of progress towards achieving the San Lorenzo River Sediment TMDL consists of a multi-pronged approach. During each three-year evaluation (2006/07, and every three years thereafter), Regional Board staff will review the results of the numeric target monitoring in the context of the other monitoring efforts, and in conjunction with information gained from tracking implementation actions. It is important to note that evaluation of numeric targets can only be performed if funding is secured to conduct the monitoring. Similarly, evaluating the targets in the context of other monitoring efforts depends on continuation of those efforts by others.

Questions about this project, its' progress, conclusions presented in this Progress Report, or anticipated future work planned or scheduled for this project should be addressed to Katie McNeill at the Regional Board. Katie McNeill may be contacted by telephone at: (805)- 549 - 3336, or by e-mail at: kmcneill@waterboards.ca.gov.

Attachment A: 3-year reporting form

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Implementation\TMDL reporting.doc

Attachment B: time-schedules

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Progress-Status Reports\SLRSedTimeSchd.DOC

Attachment C: Implementation status summary

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Progress-Status Reports\SLRSiltTrackingMarch05.DOC

Attachment D: Comprehensive Monitoring Plan

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Implementation\Monitoring Documents\SLRSedCompMonPlan.doc

Attachment E: Appendix to CMP

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Implementation\Monitoring Documents\CMPAppAProjEff.doc

S:\TMDLs & Watershed Assessment\TMDL and Related Projects- Region 3\San Lorenzo River\Siltation\8 Implementation and Tracking\Progress-Status Reports\SLRSiltStatusRptFinalJune05Del.doc